

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 17-29, and 37 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 17, 21, and 37 have been amended. Claims 10-16, 30-36, and 38 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Applicants thank the examiner for the telephone conference on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 and for the follow-up on Friday, May 21, 2004. In the telephone conference, the examiner agreed that not all of the cited sections from the Office Action taught all of the features in the claims. The examiner believes that these features may be found in other sections of the cited references and would review the references again when the response is received. Applicants' representative also discussed with the examiner the issue of whether the two references could be properly combined. The examiner stated that she would review the arguments. Further, applicants' representative and the examiner discussed adding additional clarifying features to further distinguish the claims from the cited references.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Obviousness

The examiner has rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sampson et al., United States patent number 6,339,423, ("*Sampson*") in view of Bezos et al., United States patent number 6,029,141, ("*Bezos*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting the claims, the examiner stated:

In reference to claims 1, 21, and 37, Sampson discloses a system for processing data for providing access to resources within the data processing system, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:

Receiving a request from a requestor to access a resource in the data processing system (column 5 lines 31-35).

Sending a first cookie to the requestor in response to the request, wherein the cookie is used to access the resource (column 8 lines 45-51 in combination with column 5 lines 35-60). After the authentication of the browser, it is sent a cookie which it then uses to access resources on server within the same domain.

Storing an identification of the requestor and the first cookie to form a stored identification and a stored cookie (column 2 lines 27-40). The client machine 110 inherently has identification information stored in

the machine to identify itself to network. The browser receives the cookie and stores it.

The system is responsive to receiving a second cookie from a source, comparing an identification of the source and the second cookie with the stored identification and the stored cookie (column 5 lines 10-14 in combination with column 7 lines 57-59). The browser is authenticated and authentication information inherently contains identification information in order to complete the authentication, thus the process of authentication includes the step of identification and therefore would require identification information.

The system is further responsive to a verification of the cookie information and then allowing access to the resource (column 7 lines 13-15). Verification requires that the information in the cookie must match the expected information.

Sampson does not expressly disclose the second cookie being matched with a stored cookie.

However, Bezos discloses a verification process used to match the cookie with the information stored in the server.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to compare the cookie to information stored in the server in order to verify the user as in the method of Bezos in the system of Sampson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because the information in the cookie is information compiled and used by the server therefore the cookie is a method for identifying the customer.

Office Action dated April 8, 2004, pages 3-4.

The examiner bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the prior art when rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this particular case, the features believed to be taught by the cited references are actually absent from these references. Specifically, *Sampson* and *Bezos* do not teach the features of the presently claimed invention as alleged by the examiner.

In comparing these cited references to the presently claimed invention, the features of the presently claimed invention may not be ignored. Amended claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A method in a data processing system for providing access to resources within the data processing system, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:
receiving a request from a requestor to access a resource in the data processing system;

sending a first cookie to the requestor in response to the request, wherein the cookie is used to access the resource;
storing an identification of the requestor and the first cookie to form a stored identification and a stored cookie, wherein the identification of the requestor identifies a particular data processing system from which the request originated;
responsive to receiving a second cookie from a source, comparing an identification of the source and the second cookie with the stored identification and the stored cookie to determine whether the second cookie contains the same information as the first cookie and whether the second cookie was received from the particular data processing system;
and
responsive to a match between the identification of the source and the second cookie and the stored identification and the stored cookie, allowing access to the resource.

These features are not taught in the two cited references as believed by the examiner. For example, the receiving and transmitting steps are not taught or suggested in *Sampson* as believed by the examiner.

For example, the examiner points to the following portion of *Sampson* for the receiving step:

Generally, in one embodiment, when a browser transmits a request to a protected server on behalf of a user to access a resource in a domain, and the browser does not transmit any access control cookies for the domain, the browser is connected to the secondary domain agent belonging to the domain.

Sampson, column 5, lines 31-36. This section of *Sampson* specifically states that the request is transmitted by the browser, not the secondary domain agent. The requestor in this section is the browser. In this particular section, the request is sent from the browser to the secondary domain agent. In other words, the requestor is the browser.

The examiner then points to the following section of *Sampson* for sending the first cookie to the requestor:

At step 440, the previously stored access control cookies, which are identified by Cookie_Set_Id, are transmitted to the Secondary Domain Agent. It is no longer necessary to cache the access control cookies. At step 444, the Secondary Domain Agent 262 redirects browser 210-1 to the originally requested resource, transmitting the access control cookies to browser 210-1.

Sampson, column 8, lines 45-51. The cookie transmitted in this cited section is not to the requestor, but instead to the secondary domain agent. This is not the requestor identified by the examiner in the previously cited section. According to the examiners citation for the receiving step, the requestor is the browser, rather than the secondary domain agent. This component is not even located at the client on which the browser resides. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify this teaching to reach the receiving and sending step of the presently claimed invention based on the sections cited by the examiner.

The examiner then points to the following portion of *Sampson* for the storing step of claim 1:

Cookies are pieces of information which a server may create and transmit to a browser, to cause the browser to store the cookie and retransmit it in subsequent requests to servers. A cookie may be associated with a domain name used to identify the IP address of a server. A domain name is an identifier that identifies a set or one or more IP addresses. Examples of domain names are 'enCommerce.com' or 'uspto.gov'. A browser transmits a cookie in conjunction with a request to the server to access a resource, transmitting the cookies as part of the request. The cookies transmitted are associated with the domain name of the server.

Sampson, column 2, lines 27-38. This section teaches transmitting a cookie to the browser. This section teaches that the cookie may be transmitted by the browser to a server, in response to a request for the cookie at a later time. Nowhere does *Sampson* teach that a copy of the cookie is stored in which the copy is that of a cookie transmitted to the requestor. This section also teaches associating a domain name of the server with the cookie. The domain name of the server, however, is not the identification of the requestor. The server is the entity that receives the request in *Sampson*. In contrast, the presently claimed invention stores the identification of the requestor rather than the identity of the server issuing the cookie as in this cited section of *Sampson*.

In fact, *Sampson* clearly states that the cookie is associated with the server in the following:

A domain name may be used in an address that identifies a resource, such as a URL. For example, a domain may be used to identify resources "sample1File.htm" and "sample2File.htm", by using the URL "www.demoDomain/sample2File.htm", where 'demoDomain' is the

domain name. The domain name corresponds to the IP address of a server that may supply a resource.

Sampson, column 2, lines 39-45. Thus, the storing step of the presently claimed invention is not taught or suggested by *Sampson*.

Further, the comparing step in claim 1 also is not taught or suggested by *Sampson* in the section cited by the examiner. The examiner cites to the following two sections for the comparing step:

Subsequently, the user may request access to another domain protected by access control system 220. Therefore, when the browser transmits the request to a web server belonging to the other domain, access control cookies for the user are not transmitted. A mechanism verifies whether a user has been authenticated without having to receive access control cookies or causing the user to log-in again.

Sampson, column 5, lines 10-16.

The step may include various processes for authenticating users, including user/password authentication, or use of digital certificates.

Sampson, column 7, lines 57-59. The first cited section in *Sampson* teaches transmitting a request without a cookie. The second cited section in *Sampson* teaches determining whether the user is authentic. The cited section states that various processes may be used including a user/password or digital certificates. Nowhere does this cited section teach, suggest, or provide any incentive for comparing the identification of the source and the second cookie with the stored identification and the stored cookie. This authentication only occurs if cookies have not been transmitted. As a result, the authentication occurs without comparing cookies as recited in the claims. The suggested authentication is via mechanism such as a user name/password or digital certificates.

The examiner also admits that *Sampson* does not expressly teach that the second cookie is compared to a stored cookie. The examiner, however, points to *Bezos* for this deficiency. *Bezos* does not make up for the feature absent in *Sampson* as believed by the examiner. *Bezos* generally teaches comparing a cookie retrieved from a browser with information in a server. This teaching, however, is a general one that does not teach, suggest, or provide any incentive to compare an identification of the source of a second cookie and the second cookie with the stored identification and the stored cookie.

Bezos discloses:

Upon customer selection of a referral link, the computer program 144 utilizes the customer cookie information 140 passed through an HTTP call to determine whether the particular customer (or technically, the customer computer 108) already has an open shopping cart (event E2). As part of this process, the computer program 144 executes cookie processing software (FIG. 1), which assigns a unique customer ID to the customer based on the cookie information 140. If the customer's Web browser 112 does not support the use of cookies (or if the cookies feature is disabled) the program 144 uses URL information received from the Web browser to generate the customer ID.

The customer ID is in turn used by the software 144 to identify any shopping cart currently associated with the customer. If no shopping cart exists for the customer, a new shopping cart structure (which includes the customer ID) is generated within the shopping cart database 152. The customer ID is also stored in a customer database 148. The algorithm used by the program 144 to generate the customer IDs is such that a cookie retrieved from the same customer computer will consistently produce the same customer ID. Thus, assuming the customer always uses the same computer to access the merchant site 106, and that the browser 112 supports the use of cookies, the customer will be assigned the same customer ID, and will be associated with any existing shopping cart.

Bezos, column 13, lines 42-67. As can be seen, this section only teaches using information in the cookie to identify a shopping cart in a database. A comparison of the source of the second cookie and the second cookie with the stored identification and the stored cookie is not made. A comparison of cookies and identifications are not made as recited in claim 1. Therefore, no such comparison is taught or suggested by either *Sampson* or *Bezos* alone or in combination.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the identification of the requestor identifies a particular data processing system from which the request originated. This feature is not taught or suggested by either reference alone or in combination. In addition, the comparing step is performed to determine whether the second cookie contains the same information as the first cookie and whether the second cookie was received from the particular data processing system. This feature is also not taught or suggested by either reference alone or in combination.

Additionally, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine or modify these references in the manner suggested by the examiner when these

references are considered as a whole by one of ordinary skill in the art. In considering these references as a whole, one of ordinary skill in the art would consider the problems recognized by the cited references. These two cited references are directed towards solving different problems.

For example, *Sampson* is directed towards the following:

A major drawback to a conventional access control system is that it only controls access to a set of servers and resources that belong to one domain. The underlying reason for this limitation is as follows. When a conventional access control system supplies access control cookies to a user that has just been authenticated, the cookies transmitted are associated with the domain of the access control system. When the browser requests access to another resource in another domain, the access control cookies are not transmitted because they are associated with the other domain. Thus, each domain name used to deploy a set of servers or resources requires its own implementation and maintenance of an access control system, adding to the expense of securing resources accessible over a network. In addition, for each domain name a user must login. Thus, the user may be encumbered by repetitious login procedures, or the number of domain names that may be used are limited by efforts to avoid encumbering the user.

Based on the foregoing, it is clearly desirable to provide an access control system that may be used to manage access to a set of resources deployed under multiple domain names, particular, requires a user to login just once to access the set of resources.

Sampson, column 2 line 62-column 3 line 17. As can be seen, *Sampson* is directed towards access control problems.

In contrast, *Bezos* recognizes the following problem:

With the increasing popularity of the Internet and the World Wide Web, it has become common for merchants to set up Web sites for marketing and selling goods. One example of such a Web site is the online bookstore site of AMAZON.COM, the assignee of the present invention. Via this site, consumers can access and place orders from an online book catalog that includes millions of titles.

One problem commonly encountered by online merchants is an inability to effectively market goods via their Web sites. Because the customer cannot physically inspect the products via the Web site, and typically cannot talk to a salesperson, it is desirable that the site provide access to product reviews, product ratings, and other information that can be relied on by the customer to make an informed decision. In many cases, however, the merchant lacks the resources needed to generate or otherwise obtain such information, especially if the merchant sells a large and

diverse selection of goods. For example, it would not be practical for AMAZON.COM to prepare reviews of all, or even a significant portion of, the millions of titles available on the AMAZON.COM site.

Another problem commonly faced by online merchants is an inability to efficiently attract potential consumers to their Web sites. One way of attracting consumers has been to market the site through television, newspaper and Internet advertisements. However, advertising a site using conventional methods can be expensive, and can consume significant human resources. In addition, it is often difficult or impossible to evaluate the effectiveness of a given advertisement.

Bezos, column 1, lines 17-45. *Bezos* recognizes problems in providing information regarding goods being sold online to customers and attracting customers to Websites.

Further, when these two references are considered as a whole, they are directed towards vastly different types of solutions. For example, *Sampson* provides the following solution:

A mechanism that uses a single access control system to manage access by users to resources that belong to multiple domains is disclosed. According to one aspect, a server is associated with each domain in a set of domains. Access to resources in the domains is governed by an access control system. A first server for a first domain transmits a data token to a client seeking access to a resource in a second domain. The client transmits the data token to a second server in the other domain. The second server uses the data token to verify that the user is, authorized to access resources protected by the access control system. Once determining that the user is authorized to access resources, access control "cookies" are transmitted to client.

Sampson, column 3, lines 20-32. *Sampson* discloses an access control mechanism.

On the other hand, *Bezos* discloses a mechanism for enabling merchants to market and sell goods on websites as follows:

Disclosed is an Internet-based referral system that enables individuals and other business entities ("associates") to market products, in return for a commission, that are sold from a merchant's Web site. The system includes automated registration software that runs on the merchant's Web site to allow entities to register as associates. Following registration, the associate sets up a Web site (or other information dissemination system) to distribute hypertextual catalog documents that includes marketing information (product reviews, recommendations, etc.) about selected products of the merchant. In association with each such product, the catalog document includes a hypertextual "referral link" that allows a user ("customer") to link to the merchant's site and purchase the product. When

a customer selects a referral link, the customer's computer transmits unique IDs of the selected product and of the associate to the merchant's site, allowing the merchant to identify the product and the referring associate. If the customer subsequently purchases the product from the merchant's site, a commission is automatically credited to an account of the referring associate. The merchant site also implements an electronic shopping cart that allows the customer to select products from multiple different Web sites, and then perform a single "check out" from the merchant's site.

Bezos, Abstract.

Thus, when these cited references are considered as a whole one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine these two references in the manner stated by the examiner, even if these two references could be argued to teach the features as proposed by the examiner.

The other independent claims are claims containing one or more features similar to those in claim 1, which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. The dependent claims are patentable over these cited references for the same reasons as the independent claims. Further, these claims also include other features not taught or suggested by the cited references.

For example, claim 8 states that the steps are performed in a browser. The portions of *Sampson* cited by the examiner indicate that at least some of the steps occur at a server, rather than having all of the steps occur in a browser.

In yet another example, claim 9 includes generating a disk location number from a path for a file that forms the resource. This claim also includes placing the disk location number into the first cookie. The examiner only states that *Sampson* discloses the resource as being a static file. The examiner has provided line numbers without a column citation for *Sampson*. Column 2 describes resources as being files, but nowhere does the cited reference state that the location of the resource in the form of a disk location number is placed into the first cookie. The examiner only asserts that the information contains the file location. No teaching, suggestion, or incentive is present for placing a disk location number into the first cookie as recited in claim 9.

Therefore, the rejection claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been overcome.

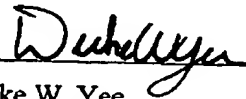
II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the above-cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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